

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
August 16, 2017

Fisheries Under Consideration:	Non-treaty mainstem commercial salmon Treaty mainstem commercial
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent report is the 2016 Fall Report (July 12, 2016). The 2017 Fall Report is in preparation. Links to the on-line reports are:
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> and <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

STOCK STATUS

Fall Chinook

- Columbia River fall Chinook are comprised of six major management components: Select Area Brights (SAB), Lower River Hatchery (LRH), Lower River Wild (LRW), Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH), Upriver Bright (URB), and Mid-Columbia Bright (MCB). The MCB component is comprised of Bonneville Upriver Bright (BUB), Pool Upriver Bright (PUB), and Lower River Brights (LRB).
- The LRH and BPH stocks are referred to as tules and the LRW, SAB, URB, and MCB stocks are referred to as brights.
- The URB, BPH, and PUB Chinook are destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam, and in aggregate comprise the upriver run. Lower river components include SAB, LRH, LRW, LRB, and BUB Chinook stocks.
- The forecast for the 2017 fall Chinook adult return to the Columbia River totals 613,800 fish which would be similar (96%) to the 2016 actual return of 642,400 and 84% of the 2007-2016 average return (727,600).
- Bonneville Dam passage is expected to total nearly 403,600 upriver fall Chinook adults for the season. Passage through August 14 totals 4,765 adult Chinook. Passage is typically 50% complete by September 9.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Upriver summer steelhead pass Bonneville Dam from April through October of each year. Fish passing during July through October are categorized as A-Index or B-Index based on fork length (A-Index: <78 cm, B-Index: ≥78 cm). Passage during July is mainly A-Index fish; B-Index passage normally begins around the end of August. B-Index steelhead primarily return to Snake River tributaries in Idaho, while A-Index steelhead return to tributaries throughout the Columbia and Snake basins.
- The forecast for the combined A/B-Index steelhead return to Bonneville Dam is 119,400 fish, including 41,500 unclipped (34,100 wild) fish. The A-Index forecast is 54% and the B-Index forecast is 25% of their respective 5-year averages.
- Counts of steelhead at Bonneville Dam during July 1 through August 14 total 32,870 fish, which is much less than expected (~59,700) and is the lowest cumulative passage since

1943. Passage at Bonneville Dam (July-October) is typically 50% complete by August 14.

- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on August 7 and 14 to review upriver steelhead returns. At the August 14 meeting, TAC downgraded the total Group A return to 54,000 (33,000 hatchery and 21,000 wild) compared to the 112,100 preseason forecast. TAC did not review the Group B return since this run is only 3% complete based on the five-year average run timing.

Coho

- The 2017 Coho forecast to the Columbia River is for a return of 319,300 adults, which includes 196,800 early stock and 122,500 late stock. The forecast is 93% of the recent 5-year average of 344,500 fish.
- Bonneville Dam passage is expected to total 97,400 adult Coho, which represents 79% of the total ocean abundance of Columbia River Coho destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Only one adult Coho has been counted at Bonneville Dam through August 14.

Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted				
		2016		2017
		Forecast	Return	Forecast *
Fall Chinook	Total Fall Chinook	960,000	642,415	613,840
	Lower River Hatchery - LRH	142,500	81,492	98,750
	Lower River Wild - LRW	22,400	12,315	13,610
	Bonneville Pool Hatchery - BPH	100,700	41,270	164,390
	Upriver Bright – URB	579,600	412,851	275,210
	<i>Snake River Wild - SRW</i>	<i>19,700</i>	<i>14,500</i>	<i>12,400</i>
	Bonneville Upriver Bright - BUB ***	21,300	9,629	3,470
	Lower River Bright - LRB	1,300	11,000	220
	Pool Upriver Bright - PUB	76,400	67,182	44,490
	Select Area Bright - SAB	15,800	6,676	13,700
Coho	Total Coho	322,600	195,601	319,300
	Early stock	132,900	116,658	196,800
	Late stock	189,700	78,943	122,500
Summer Steelhead	Total Upriver Steelhead	256,200	171,806	119,400
(to Bonneville Dam)	Group A-run Index (total)	230,400	128,890	112,100
	<i>(wild)</i>	<i>89,100</i>	<i>29,146</i>	<i>33,000</i>
	Group B-run Index (total)	25,800	42,916	7,300
	<i>(wild)</i>	<i>7,400</i>	<i>3,469</i>	<i>1,100</i>
* Components may not sum to totals shown since individual forecasts are not available for all upriver spring Chinook tributaries. Wild components are included in the stock total.				
** production moved to PUB – only age-5 returning in 2017				7/17/2017

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon/Steelhead

- The "2008-2017 U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement" (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall Chinook, steelhead, and Coho.
 - The allowable impact rate for combined treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries is 45% of the URB run based on preseason forecasts (URB stock is the surrogate for SRW Chinook). This impact limit is allocated 30% for treaty Indian fisheries and 15% for non-treaty fisheries.
 - The escapement goal at Spring Creek Hatchery is 7,000 adult fall Chinook (BPH stock).
 - The management goal for adult fall Chinook at McNary Dam is 60,000 fish.
 - The allowable impact to wild summer steelhead (A- and B-Index) during the fall season is 2% for non-treaty fisheries; treaty fishery impacts are limited to 13% of the total B-Index.
 - The goal for upriver Coho passage at Bonneville Dam is 50% of the ocean abundance.
- The allowable exploitation rate (ER) for lower Columbia River (LCR) tule Chinook is 41% for combined ocean and Columbia River fisheries. The ER for in-river fisheries is expected to be 9.1% (36.9% combined). A portion of the LRH component is used as a surrogate for LCR tules.
- The allowable ER for lower Columbia natural (LCN) Coho is 18% for ocean and Columbia River fisheries combined. The ER is expected to be 3.4% in Columbia River fisheries. Unmarked Coho are used as a surrogate for LCN Coho.
- The escapement goal for LRWs in the North Fork Lewis River is 5,700 adult fish.
- The broodstock goal for Big Creek Hatchery is 2,900 adult Chinook.
- Impacts to Columbia River Chum are limited to 5% of the run.
- Commission guidance allocates ESA impacts for URB and LCR tule Chinook among non-treaty fisheries. Guidance for 2017 differs between the states with sharing of impact allocations set at $\leq 70\%$ recreational and $\geq 30\%$ commercial in Oregon and $\leq 75\%$ recreational and $\geq 25\%$ commercial in Washington.
- Fall season non-treaty fisheries will be managed in accordance with the "2017 Non-Treaty Columbia River Summer/Fall Fishery Allocation Agreement". This agreement was completed through the North of Falcon (NOF) public process, which includes input from recreational and commercial fishing constituents.
- Included in the 2017 allocation agreement are season structures and catch expectations for sport and commercial fisheries based on preseason modeling. Since wild B-Index steelhead are the most constraining fall stock, neither SRW or LCR tule Chinook impacts are fully accessible. In-river sharing of utilized LCR tule impacts are currently expected to be 69% recreational and 31% commercial. The sharing for utilized SRW impacts is expected to be 64% recreational and 36% commercial.

White Sturgeon

- White sturgeon harvest was prohibited effective January 2014 in all Columbia River fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam, consistent with policies adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commissions of both Washington and Oregon.
- Retention fisheries were reinstated in June 2017, beginning with estuary recreational and Select Area commercial fisheries.
- Per Commission guidance, white sturgeon harvest allocations remain at 80% recreational and 20% commercial.
- To maintain a cautious approach, staff assumed the following when modelling 2017 LCR sturgeon fisheries:
 - Applied the most conservative 2017 legal-size abundance forecast.
 - Standardized the legal slot for all fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam to 44-50 inches fork length (FL) to facilitate management and provide immediate escapement of larger-size white sturgeon by excluding them from harvest.
 - Modeled a conservative 3.8% harvest rate on 44-50 inch fish (equivalent impact to broodstock escapement of a 4.5% harvest rate on the traditional 38-54 inch size slot).
- Based on the approach above, the 2017 commercial white sturgeon allocation is 1,245 fish (44-50 inches FL).
 - Through the summer season, 270 fish have been landed in Select Area fisheries.
 - Fall Select Area fisheries are expected to harvest another 130 white sturgeon, for a total of 400, leaving a balance of 845 white sturgeon for mainstem fisheries.

2017 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries

- Due to wild B-Index steelhead limitations, the only fall mainstem commercial fishery currently planned is the early fall fishery which was modelled at NOF to begin the week of August 20 in Zones 4-5 and consist of three fishing periods per week through September 1. Additional period(s) with reduced time or area may be considered in early September (within ESA constraints) to meet harvest guidelines.
- Fishing hours during August are typically 9 PM – 6 AM, and mesh size will be 9-inch minimum.
- Considering the modeled season structure for the 2017 fall commercial season and input from the CRCAG, staff is making the following recommendation:

Recommendation: 2017 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Early Fall Fishery

Season:	Six 9-hour fishing periods during August 20–September 1
Week 35 (3 open periods)	9 PM Sunday August 20 to 6 AM Monday August 21 9 PM Tuesday August 22 to 6 AM Wednesday August 23 9 PM Thursday August 24 to 6 AM Friday August 25
Week 36 (3 open periods)	9 PM Sunday August 27 to 6 AM Monday August 28 9 PM Tuesday August 29 to 6 AM Wednesday August 30 9 PM Thursday August 31 to 6 AM Friday September 1
Area:	Zones 4-5. The deadline at the lower end of Zone 4 is defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore.
Sanctuaries:	Washougal and Sandy rivers.
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 9-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule NOT in effect, which means nets not authorized for this fishery may not be onboard. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Sockeye salmon and shad. A maximum of five white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This white sturgeon possession and sales limit applies to mainstem fisheries only.
Additional Rules:	Observer Program: As a condition of fishing or participating in this fishery, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must carry and accommodate a Department observer for the duration of the fishing trip when requested. It is unlawful to deny access or fail to carry a Department observer upon request. As used in this rule, a Department observer is an employee of either the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, or Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting longer than 24 hours.

- The proposed fishery is consistent with the 2017 Fall Allocation Agreement; however, there is industry support for delaying the first fishing period until August 22. At the August 9 meeting, the Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group generally supported delaying the start of the fishery considering the steelhead return and to avoid traffic issues associated with the August 21 solar eclipse. Subsequent industry input has also been supportive of an August 22 start date.

- Onboard observation will occur to verify steelhead encounter and immediate mortality rates, as well as sturgeon handle.
- Delaying the fishery until the fourth week of August will maximize Chinook catch prior to peak B-Index steelhead abundance.
- Restricting the fishery to a 9-inch minimum mesh in Zones 4-5 only will reduce the catch of LCR tule Chinook and steelhead handle, and is consistent with Commission guidance.
- Kept catch expectations total 45,900 adult Chinook, 350 Coho, and 525 white sturgeon. Chinook catch is expected to build as the fishery progresses. Weekly catch expectations include:
 - Week 35 = 20,870 adult Chinook; Week 36 = 25,030 adult Chinook
- The proposed fishery is expected to accrue Chinook ESA impacts of 4.1% SRW and 2.9% LCR wild, respectively.
- The fishery will be managed to remain within the ESA impacts allocated; actual harvest may be more or less than modeled. Catch expectations are a reflection of the number of fish that may be harvested given the ESA constraints.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.4% for A-Index and 0.6% for B-Index for the proposed fishery. Total non-treaty impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.7% for A-Index and 1.8% for B-Index, compared to the 2.0% total allowed for each during the fall season.
- Ex-vessel prices (per pound) during the 2016 early fall season averaged \$3.36 for bright Chinook, \$0.63 for tule Chinook, and \$1.78 for Coho. Chinook prices for the 2017 early fall fishery are expected to be high.
- Any additional commercial fisheries will be addressed in-season after the fall Chinook and steelhead run-size updates are available (approximately mid-September).

2017 TREATY INDIAN FALL FISHERIES

- Based on the preseason Columbia River mouth forecasts of 613,840 fall Chinook (275,210 upriver brights) and 7,300 B-Index steelhead, the corresponding impact limits under the MA for treaty Indian fisheries are 82,563 adult Upriver Bright fall Chinook and 949 B-Index steelhead. Actual allowed catches will be based on actual run sizes.
- The commercial sale of fish caught with hoopnet, dipnet, or hook-and-line in Zone 6, below Bonneville, and tributary fisheries is allowed by the Columbia River treaty tribes during the fall season which began August 1. Oregon and Washington regulations allowing sales are currently in place.
- The tribes have modeled three weekly commercial gillnet fisheries along with projections for the platform fishery for early August. The projected catches are shown in the table below. Platform catches during the weeks with commercial gillnet fisheries are included in the gillnet totals.

2017 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (projected catches)					
Fishery	Expected Effort (Set Nets)	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B-Index Steelhead
Platforms through 8/19	na	800	500	330	30
Aug 21-25 (4.5 days)	290	4,400	3,300	360	20
Aug 28 -Sept 1 (4.5 days)	400	14,500	6,900	450	60
Sept 4-8 (4.5 days)	525	34,600	13,200	560	80
Subtotal through Sept 8		54,300	23,900	1,700	190
Allowed at Pre-season Forecast			82,563		949
Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 8			8.7%		2.6%
Remaining after Sept 8			58,663		759
Remaining Harvest Rate After Sept 8			21.3%		10.4%

- The modeled catch rates are based on recent year average effort and harvest rates using pre-season forecasts for Chinook and B-Index steelhead along with the updated A-Index run sizes.
- These fisheries are similar in structure to recent years. The tribes expect that there will be remaining URB and B-Index steelhead impacts after these fisheries.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

2017 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery		
Season:	6 AM Monday August 21 to 6 PM Friday August 25 6 AM Monday August 28 to 6 PM Friday September 1 6 AM Monday September 4 to 6 PM Friday September 8	(4.5 days) (4.5 days) (4.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear, including the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary are in effect.	
Gear:	Set and Drift gillnets with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and may be kept for subsistence purposes.	
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.	

- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Set-net effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week. The tribes expect to set additional gillnet fishing time after these periods.
- Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries are open for both subsistence and commercial use and do not require Compact action nor do Yakama tributary fisheries.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are currently scheduled. Staff is recommending a Compact hearing be scheduled via teleconference for 11 AM September 6 to consider additional treaty commercial gillnet openings.